

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 16, of the Specification with the following paragraph:

An example of a portion of an XML document is shown in Fig. 1. In this example, information about a person is being exchanged. To indicate that the information pertains to a person, the "person" element tags are used to delimit the data. Nested within the "person" element tags are two sets of information: (1) a name; and (2) an address. These sets of information are also delimited using the "Name" and "Address" element tags, respectively. Nested within the "Name" element tags are three child elements, namely, a first, middle, and last name, each of which is delimited by respective element tags, and each of which has an associated value. Likewise, nested within the "Address" element tags are four child elements, namely, a street, city, state, and zip code, each of which is delimited by respective element tags, and each of which has an associated value. By delimiting the sets of data using nested element tags in this manner, the XML document makes it clear how the data is structured, and what each set of data represents. As a result, any mechanism that is capable of understanding the element tags used to delimit the data will be able to interpret and process the data. In this manner, XML makes it possible to exchange structured data in a textual, program-independent, and platform-independent manner. It is this general nature of XML that makes it so flexible and versatile. Because of its versatility, XML has grown significantly in popularity in recent years. The above discussion provides just a brief description of the XML specification. More information on XML may be found on the W3C website at ~~www.w3c.org~~ w3c.org. All of the information on that website, as of the filing date of the present application, is incorporated herein by reference.